

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 17, 28, 33, 43, 51, 56, 66, 74, 79, 89 and 97.

1. (Four times amended) A retroviral vector which undergoes promoter conversion comprising in 5' to 3' order,

- a) a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5;
- b) one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and
- c) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a heterologous promoter other than a promoter from a retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based or a promoter from a subtype of the retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based is inserted, said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences and wherein said promoter has a reduced chance of recombination with endogenous sequences of the retroviral vector.

17. (Four times amended) A retroviral vector kit comprising:
a retroviral vector which undergoes promoter conversion comprising in 5' to 3' order, a) a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5; b) one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and c) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a heterologous promoter is inserted, wherein said promoter is derived from a promoter other than a promoter from a retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based or a promoter from a subtype of the retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based and said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences and wherein said promoter has a reduced chance of recombination with endogenous sequences of the retroviral vector; and

H2
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a packaging cell line harboring at least one retroviral or recombinant retroviral construct coding for proteins required for said retroviral vector to be packaged.

H3

28. (Four times amended) A producer cell line producing a retroviral particle, the producer cell comprising a retroviral vector and a DNA construct coding for proteins required for the retroviral vector to be packaged, said retroviral vector comprising in 5' to 3' order, a) a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5; b) one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and c) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a heterologous promoter is inserted, wherein said promoter is other than a promoter from a retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based or a promoter from a subtype of the retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based and said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences and wherein said promoter has a reduced chance of recombination with endogenous sequences of the retroviral vector.

H4

33. (Amended) A retroviral vector which undergoes promoter conversion comprising in 5' to 3' order,

- a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5;
- one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and
- a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a promoter from a cellular gene is inserted, said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences.

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43. (Amended) A retroviral vector kit comprising:

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a retroviral vector which undergoes promoter conversion comprising in 5' to 3' order, a) a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5; b) one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and c) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a promoter from a cellular gene is inserted, said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences; and

a packaging cell line harboring at least one retroviral or recombinant retroviral construct coding for proteins required for said retroviral vector to be packaged.

H6

51. (Amended) A producer cell line producing a retroviral particle, the producer cell comprising a retroviral vector and a DNA construct coding for proteins required for the retroviral vector to be packaged, said retroviral vector comprising in 5' to 3' order, a) a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5; b) one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and c) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a promoter from a cellular gene is inserted, said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences.

H7

56. (Amended) A retroviral vector which undergoes promoter conversion comprising in 5' to 3' order,

- a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5;
- one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and
- a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a heterologous retroviral promoter which is derived from a promoter of a retrovirus

other than a retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based or other than a subtype of the retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based is inserted, said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences and wherein said promoter has a reduced chance of recombination with endogenous sequences of the retroviral vector.

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66. (Amended) A retroviral vector kit comprising:

a retroviral vector which undergoes promoter conversion comprising in 5' to 3' order, a) a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5; b) one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and c) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a heterologous retroviral promoter other than a promoter from a retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based or other than a subtype of the retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based is inserted, said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences and wherein said promoter has a reduced chance of recombination with endogenous sequences of the retroviral vector; and

H8

a packaging cell line harboring at least one retroviral or recombinant retroviral construct coding for proteins required for said retroviral vector to be packaged.

H9

74. (Amended) A producer cell line producing a retroviral particle, the producer cell comprising a retroviral vector and a DNA construct coding for proteins required for the retroviral vector to be packaged, said retroviral vector comprising in 5' to 3' order, a) a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5; b) one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and c) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region

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wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a heterologous retroviral promoter other than a promoter from a retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based or other than a subtype of the retrovirus upon which the retroviral vector is based is inserted, said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences and wherein said promoter has a reduced chance of recombination with endogenous sequences of the retroviral vector.

79. (Amended) A retroviral vector which undergoes promoter conversion comprising in 5' to 3' order,

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- a) a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5;
- b) one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and
- c) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a heterologous promoter other than a retroviral promoter is inserted, said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences.

89. (Amended) A retroviral vector kit comprising:

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a retroviral vector which undergoes promoter conversion comprising in 5' to 3' order, a) a 5' long terminal repeat region of the structure U3-R-U5; b) one or more sequences selected from coding and non-coding sequences, said sequences being inserted into the body of the vector; and c) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a partially deleted U3 region wherein in said partially deleted U3 region a polylinker sequence containing a heterologous promoter other than a retroviral promoter is inserted, said promoter regulating, after infection of a target cell, expression of said one or more sequences selected from coding sequences; and